

Attorney for Three Berets Labels Case a 'CIA Foulup'

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (UPI) —The lawyer for three of eight Green Berets accused of murdering a Vietnamese civilian today blamed their arrest on "jealousy" and "incompetence" in the Central Intelligence Agency and the military.

"I expect the charges to be summarily dismissed," attorney Henry E. Rothblatt of New York said.

Rothblatt, who returned early today from conferring with his clients and military authorities in Vietnam, told newsmen at Kennedy International Airport the case primarily was a "CIA foulup," the details of which he could not discuss.

The attorney said that while his clients had no intention of filing a complaint against the Army, he would "like to bring forth a bill of particulars against certain persons with this agency (the CIS) dealing with their competence and integrity."

The eight men, including Col. Robert B. Rheault of Vineyard Haven, Mass., former commander of the 5th Special Forces Group in South Vietnam, are accused of executing a Vietnamese who was described by another defense attorney as a double agent working for the North Vietnamese as well as allied forces.

Col. Harold D. Seaman, who conducted an investigation into the case, will recommend to Maj. Gen. George L. Mabry, commander of Army support troops in South Vietnam, whether to press charges.

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Attorney Henry E. Rothblatt after return from Vietnam.